

*Livingston:* So we've talked for quite a while here about your overall experience of diving at Cordell Bank. So how does this experience rate with other adventurous experiences you've had in your life?

*Schmieder:* Well, a distant second after meeting my wife, Kay. We'll take that as a calibration. You do understand that Cordell Bank was for about ten years an obsession. I was slave to that obsession. There was no way I could not do that. I thought about it day and night.

I was immersed in it. I pulled together and pulled along and pushed and carried the team, not unwillingly, but it was my obsessive driving interest to see this project through to what appeared by 1980-'81 to be the potential for establishment of a national marine sanctuary. It would have been wrong to do anything else.

It was also very exciting. I want to make sure it's clear. We did not do this for the adventure. You can throw yourself out of an airplane or anything else. Walk on hot rocks if you want adventure.

We did this because we believed in the validity of the scientific pursuit. This is field science. It's not field fun. It was fun. It was adventure for us, but that was ancillary to the deeper, wider purpose, namely to document what's out there to support the rational management protection of whatever it is that's out there.